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## GENERAL NOTES.

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*The Parallax and Proper Motion of the Double Star Krueger 60.*—The double star known as *Krueger 60* is of unusual interest for several reasons. It is a faint star, the B. D. magnitude being only 9.0, and so wide that no appreciable relative motion of its three components was to be expected within a century. The first accurate measures were made by BURNHAM—who in fact discovered the closer pair—in 1890, and when his results were compared with those of DOOLITTLE, the next observer, in 1898, it was found that the distance of the wide pair had increased from  $26''.8$  to  $34''.4$ , while the close pair showed a decrease in position-angle of nearly  $40^\circ$  with increase of distance of nearly  $0''.9$ . It therefore appeared probable that the close pair was a binary in rapid motion, and that it had a strong proper motion as well. The combination of rapid orbital motion, strong proper motion, and large apparent angular separation indicated that the pair, in spite of its faintness, was one of our near neighbors in space, and observations for parallax were accordingly instituted at the Yerkes Observatory, both visually, by BARNARD, and photographically, by SCHLESINGER. The latter's preliminary results were published in the *Astrophysical Journal* for September, 1904. They ranged from  $+0''.226$  to  $+0''.301$ , the mean being about  $0''.25$ .

Professor BARNARD's very complete discussion has now been published in the *Monthly Notices R. A. S.* (Vol. LXVIII, No. 9). The determination of parallax and proper motion of *A* rests upon his observations with the 40-inch telescope of the wide pair *AC* made in the years 1900 to 1905, inclusive. The solution of the seventy-six equations of condition gives the value  $\pi = +0''.249 \pm 0''.0105$ . For comparison, Dr. SCHLESINGER's final results<sup>1</sup> are given, and also, in a post-script, Dr. H. N. RUSSELL's value obtained from photographs with the Cambridge (England) refractors.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a discussion (not yet published) of nineteen plates taken at the Yerkes Observatory in the years 1903-1906.

The three values are:—

SCHLESINGER .....	+ 0".248	± 0".009
BARNARD .....	+ 0 .249	± 0 .010
RUSSELL .....	+ 0 .258	± 0 .013

The excellent agreement of these independent determinations is the best possible evidence of their accuracy. We may therefore assert with confidence that *Krueger 60* is our close celestial neighbor, light requiring only a little over thirteen years for its journey across the intervening space.

For the proper motion, BARNARD gives the value 0".968 in 246°.49. He adds an interesting discussion of the irregularity of the proper motion of the star *A*, due probably to its orbital motion about the center of gravity of the pair *AB*; also, all his micrometer measures to date, including those of some more distant stars. The angular motion of the close pair in the eighteen years since its discovery has amounted to 74°. The apparent distance seems to have reached its maximum value about the year 1904, and is now diminishing. It may therefore be possible to form some estimate of the periodic time before many years.

R. G. A.

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*Tempel<sub>3</sub>-Swift Comet.*—On September 29th, M. JAVELLE, at Nice, rediscovered the Tempel<sub>3</sub>-Swift comet. Its observed position differed over 15<sup>m</sup> in Right Ascension and nearly 1°.5 in Declination from the computed position according to MAUBAUT's ephemeris. Perihelion passage occurred on September 30th. This comet was discovered by TEMPEL in 1869, and when rediscovered by SWIFT in 1880 was found to move in an ellipse with a period of five and one-half years. The comet was not found at its return in 1874, nor at any of the returns since 1880, except in 1891, when it was rediscovered by BARNARD.

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*Notes from "Science."*—Dr. S. TSCHERNY, of Kiev, has been appointed director of the university observatory in Warsaw.

The Astronomical and Astrophysical Society of America will hold its next meeting in the summer of 1909, probably at the Yerkes Observatory. The exact date has not yet been

fixed, but it is expected to precede by a few days the Winnipeg meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which will open on August 25, 1909.

Mr. ANDREW GRAHAM, from 1864 to 1903 first assistant at the Cambridge Observatory, known especially for his work on the Cambridge star catalogue published in 1897, died recently at the age of ninety-three years.

We regret also to record the deaths of Dr. JOHN M. THOME, director of the Cordova Observatory since the retirement of Dr. GOULD; and of Mr. ARCHIBALD J. LITTLE, who did valuable geographical work in the interior of Asia.

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In the November *Astrophysical Journal*, Messrs. A. FOWLER and A. EAGLE, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology of London, show that a spectrum of linear dispersion on any reasonable scale can be obtained photographically from a prismatic spectrum plate by setting the two plates at proper distances from the lens and tilting them at definite angles. Formulæ are given. An example shows the remarkable accuracy obtained with ordinary apparatus.

J. D. M.

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*Cecil Goodrich Dolmage.*—The following clipping from the *London Times* announces the death of Dr. C. G. DOLMAGE, a member of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific since 1899:—

"The death of Dr. CECIL G. DOLMAGE, author of 'Astronomy of To-day,' a work which has been widely praised, has come as a sad blow to his numerous friends in Dublin and in London, where he had resided for some years past. He took high honors at Trinity College, Dublin, in modern history in 1893, and, devoting himself to intellectual pursuits, accomplished for astronomy, his favorite study, much useful work by his wide knowledge and facile pen. Some eighteen months ago, when on a trip to Italy, he fell dangerously ill; and, though hopes of recovery were entertained, he fell into a steady decline. He was a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and many other learned societies at home and abroad. A man of a singularly truthful and upright nature, of modest manner, and of noble mind, his death will be mourned by many men of varied types whom his ability and personality attracted to him."